

Printing Yesterday and Today



Name _____

Date _____

Printing Yesterday and Today



Before people could write they had to keep the things they knew – information – in their heads. That was difficult to do. It is especially hard to do if people want to share that information with others.

Writing wasn't invented by any one person or group, but it did get started long, long ago. There were many different ways people "wrote" in the beginning.

Most early writings were pictures. Pictures are symbols for things. Pictures were made on pottery because it was easy to get and lasted a long time.

The earliest forms of writing were sets of pictures called pictograms. To read this writing you need to know what the symbols mean. For example, feet can mean walking, the sun can mean a beautiful day and wavy lines can mean water.

Make up some symbols to tell a story of your own.



Printing Yesterday and Today

About 5,000 years ago a people called the Sumerians of Mesopotamia developed a form of writing called cuneiform.



Cuneiform started out with about 2,000 symbols. Over time that number went down to 800. Only 200 or 300 cuneiform signs were used all of the time.

The ancient Middle Eastern peoples used soft clay tablets to write on. The tablets could be dried in the sun. The hard tablets preserved the writing.

Cuneiform was written with a stylus. The stylus was made from a reed. Depending on how the end of the stylus was cut, the writer was able to make different shaped marks.

Early cuneiform was written in columns. Later it was written on lines going across from left to right.



Look up the definitions to the words below. Write the definitions on the lines.

1. sign _____

2. tablet _____

3. stylus _____

4. column _____

Printing Yesterday and Today



Writing on tablets was only a small step toward books as we know them today. Can you imagine if this unit was a stack of clay tablets? That would not be very practical!

The ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans wrote on papyrus. Papyrus grew in the valley of the Nile River. Fibers in the plant were pressed together in layers. When the layers dried they could be written on.

When there was no more papyrus, people looked for other materials to write on. Parchment, made from animal skins, was used until paper came in the Middle Ages.

Both papyrus and parchment could be rolled into scrolls. Much more information could be written on scrolls.

Fill in the missing word in each sentence.
Write the answer on the line.



1. When there was no more _____ people looked for other materials to write on.
2. People started to use paper in the _____ Ages.
3. The ancient Egyptians, _____, and Romans wrote on papyrus.
4. Much more information could be written on _____.

Printing Yesterday



and Today

Very few people knew how to write long ago. Writing was done only by professional scribes. A scribe was an important and respected position.

Scribes wrote with thin pens or brushes made of reed. The reed had a split in the end to hold ink.

The black ink was made from charcoal or soot. The colored inks – red, green or blue – came from crushed minerals mixed with water.



Pretend that you are a scribe and write on the scroll below. Write about your family, friends, school, or any subject that you find interesting.

A large, empty rectangular area representing a scroll. It has a black border and a small grey tab on the right side, suggesting it can be rolled up.

Printing Yesterday and Today

The earliest idea of a book as we think of it was written about 3,000 years ago. Long scrolls were broken down into several short rolls about 35 feet (10 meters) long. These rolls were kept together in a container.

Scrolls were wrapped and marked with a title and the author's name. The scribes would reproduce scrolls by copying it or having someone dictate it to them as they wrote.

Athens and Rome were the centers of book production. Books were sent all over the ancient world from the two cities.

Scribing was slow, difficult work, and it was expensive. The earliest books were owned only by rulers, temples or very rich people.

At that time and for many centuries, books were used for reading stories aloud. Learning was done by listening to lessons and memorizing them if necessary.

Fill in the missing words. Write them on the line. Read the paragraphs above for the answers. Thank you.



1. Athens and _____ were centers of book production.
2. Shorter scrolls were kept together in a _____.
3. Only rulers, _____ or very rich people owned books.
4. _____ was slow, difficult work.
5. Scrolls were wrapped and marked with a title and the _____'s name.



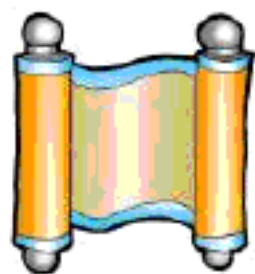
Printing Yesterday and Today

Paper was invented in China, but the Chinese kept the process of making paper a secret. Eventually others learned and paper mills were set up all over Europe.



1. Pulp for making paper gets put into a vat.
2. The vatman puts a mold into the vat.
3. The pulp collects on the mold.
4. When the extra liquid run through a layer of fibers is left on the mold.

THE CHINESE USED MULBERRY BARK OR BAMBOO TO MAKE PAPER.



In Europe, paper was made by beating linen and cotton rags in water to make a pulp.



1. The fibers form a sheet of paper.
2. Sheets are piled on top of each other.
3. A boulder called the squeeze presses out water.

Printing Yesterday and Today

In the 19th century, cotton and linen rags were becoming scarce and much too costly. But there was a higher demand for paper than ever before. That was when wood became the new raw material for machine-made paper.

Paper made from rags was much stronger than the paper made from wood pulp. Modern paper gets yellow and brittle over time. It finally disintegrates because it contains a lot of acid.


For hundreds of years books could only be written by hand. No matter how many scribes worked together, there was no way to make more books.

The Chinese printed scrolls and books with wooden blocks. The blocks had whole pages of Chinese characters carved into them. Europeans were slower to discover printing.

Johannes Gutenberg, a German goldsmith, was the first to use movable type in about 1450. Each letter is cut onto a single block so it can set into words. This made printing books much faster.

Movable type had many advantages, but the best was that mistakes could be corrected quickly. A printer's reputation has always depended on the quality of the printed page, so everything has to be checked carefully.

TYPECASE



A typecase is a traditional printer's tray of type. There are three kinds of type: CAPITAL letters, SMALL CAPITAL letters and small letters.

There are a numbers, punctuation marks

- , . : ; ? " !



Printing Yesterday and Today

Johannes Gutenberg also built a wooden printing press. It would press paper against the raised type. Ink would be on the type so it made an impression on the paper.

For the next four hundred years printing presses continued to improve. They were the same design as Gutenberg's, but eventually were made of iron.

After the Industrial Revolution making books became faster still with high-speed cylinder presses, phototypesetting and photographic reproduction.



Read the sentences below. Write your answer on the line.

1. Who invented the printing press? _____
2. After what Revolution were books made faster? _____
3. The first press was made of _____.
4. What did the machine press paper against? _____

Do You Want To Learn More About Printing ???

MORE RESEARCH

Choose a topic, look it up and do a drawing of it below. Write a little bit about what you've drawn. Thank you

alphabet

hieroglyphs

manuscript

audiobook

binding

Braille

illustration

typeface



Title: _____

Printing Yesterday and Today

Spelling

Print the correct spelling of each word on the line.



1. type
tipe
tiep _____
2. papryus
papieruss
papyrus _____
3. stylus
stilos
stylas _____
4. partchmen
parchment
parchmant _____
5. scribe
skribe
skrybe _____
6. prinding
printning
printing _____





Printing Yesterday and Today

WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word and print the word on the line.

1. becrsi

2. nitrpre

3. bltaet

4. rppea

5. ssltuy

6. turpcie



Printing Yesterday and Today

WORD FIND

Find and circle these words. They run down, across, and diagonally.

manuscript
paper
tablet

books
signs
writing

stylus
scribes
type

symbols
binding
alphabet

b	c	m	l	a	s	c	r	i	b	e	s	i	n	g
g	o	s	y	m	b	o	l	s	f	p	m	l	w	a
d	h	o	p	o	w	r	i	t	i	n	g	o	g	p
v	e	t	k	u	u	t	s	m	y	n	r	g	j	a
i	l	z	h	s	t	m	l	t	y	p	e	h	j	p
s	p	i	m	t	h	b	k	e	p	g	b	t	d	e
i	f	w	c	y	o	a	n	a	d	g	a	b	r	r
g	u	i	t	l	r	t	c	d	s	b	k	i	j	s
n	l	n	a	u	e	s	j	o	l	i	t	n	s	h
s	r	l	i	s	r	a	r	e	d	e	k	d	p	n
s	b	s	n	f	u	n	t	s	i	n	s	i	c	t
p	a	l	p	h	a	b	e	t	s	n	m	n	g	b
r	m	a	n	u	s	c	r	i	p	t	l	g	y	h

Printing Yesterday and Today

CRISS CROSS

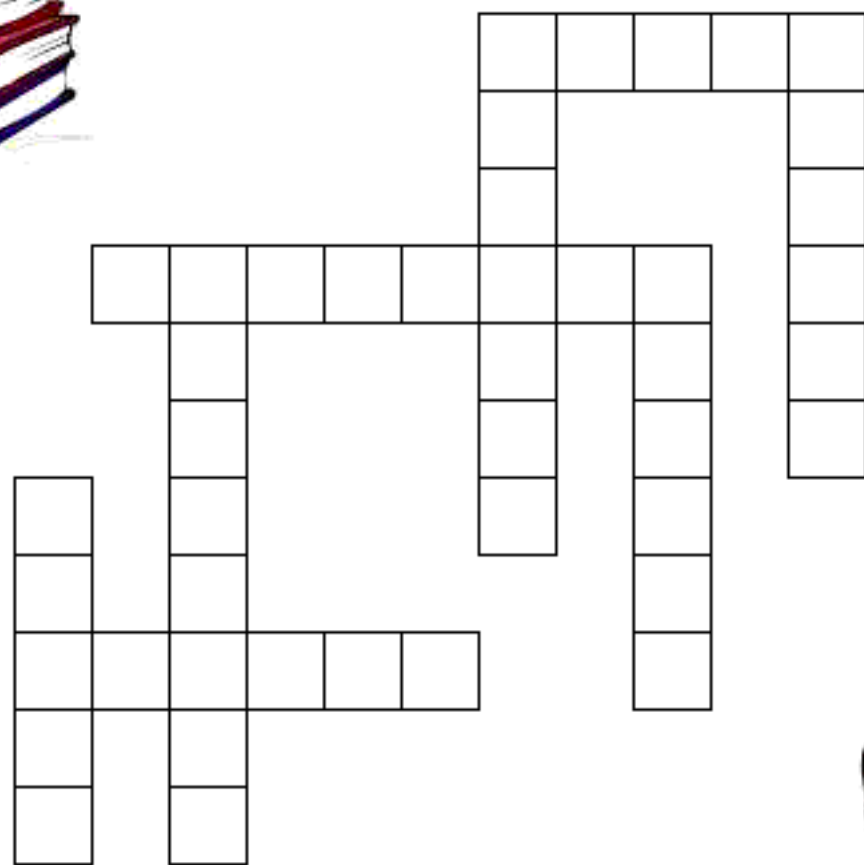
Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

alphabet
symbols

paper
language

stylus
plates

signs
tablet

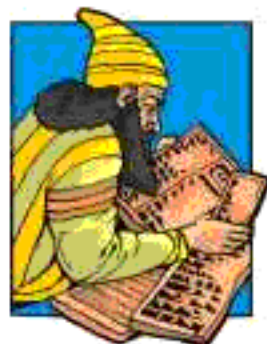


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Spelling

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tiep

type

2. papryus
papuruss
papyrus

papyrus

3. stylus
stilos
stylas

stylus

4. partchmen
parchment
parchmant

parchment

5. scribe
skribe
skrybe

scribe

6. prinding
printning
printing

printing



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WORD UNSCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word and print the word on the line.

KEY

1. becrsi

scribe

2. nitrpre

printer

3. bltaet

tablet

4. rpepa

paper

5. ssltuy

stylus

6. turpcie

picture



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WORD FIND

Find and circle these words. They run down, across, and diagonally.

KEY

manuscript
paper
tablet

books
signs
writing

stylus
scribes
type

symbols
binding
alphabet

b	c	m	l	a	s	c	r	i	b	e	s	i	n	g
g	o	s	y	m	b	o	l	s	f	p	m	l	w	a
d	h	o	p	o	w	r	i	t	i	n	g	o	g	p
v	e	t	k	u	u	t	s	m	y	n	r	g	j	a
i	l	z	h	s	t	m	l	t	y	p	e	h	j	p
s	p	i	m	t	h	b	k	e	p	g	b	t	d	e
i	f	w	c	y	o	a	n	a	d	g	a	b	r	r
g	u	i	t	l	r	t	c	d	s	b	k	i	j	s
n	l	n	a	u	e	s	j	o	l	i	t	n	s	h
s	r	l	i	s	r	a	r	e	d	e	k	d	p	n
s	b	s	n	f	u	n	t	s	i	n	s	i	c	t
p	a	l	p	h	a	b	e	t	s	n	m	n	g	b
r	m	a	n	u	s	c	r	i	p	t	l	g	y	h

Printing Yesterday and Today

KEY

CRISS CROSS

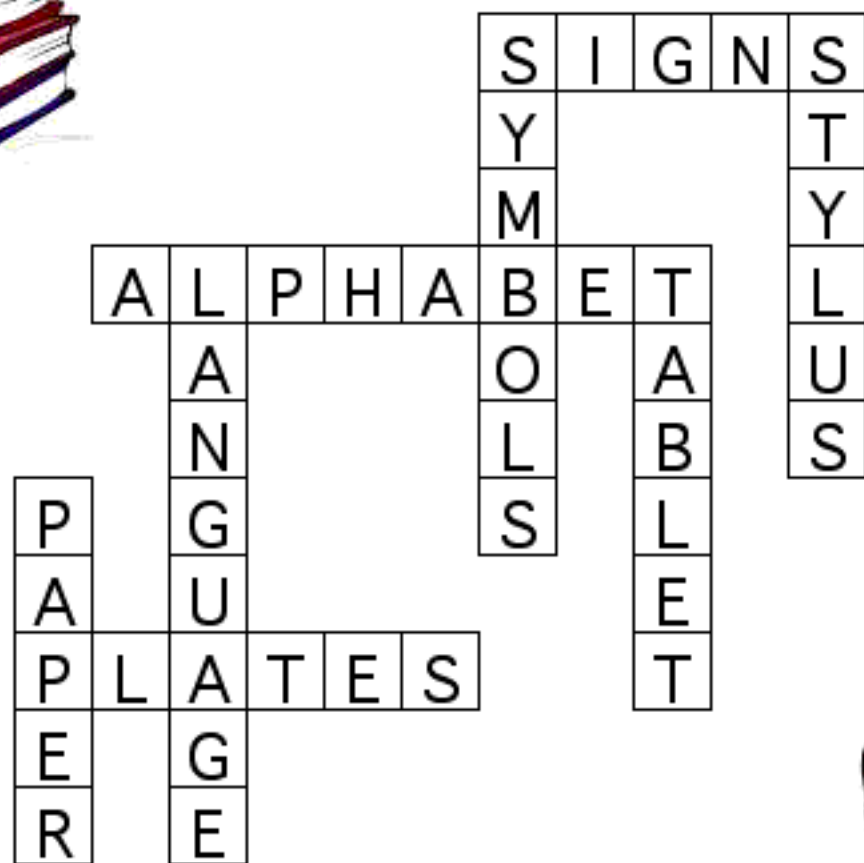
Can you fit these words into the criss cross?
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alphabet
symbols

paper
language

stylus
plates

signs
tablet





A Thematic Unit about

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